

Summary Report

Study Tour: Communities Adapting to Climate Change Learning Network

16 July 2008, Kimberley, BC



General Objectives:

1. To reflect and learn on the process of embarking on a local government led climate change adaptation initiative.
2. To build the foundations for a network of Basin contacts interested in pursuing these types of activities in the future.
3. To jointly agree on a direction for the learning network during the period of the initiative.

Participants:

- 15 people participated in person.
- 8 people participated by phone in the morning session.
- Representation included local government elected officials and staff from five Basin communities, advisory committee members and partner institutions such as KAST and CBT Youth Initiatives.

Please see attached participant list for a detailed list of participants.

Additional Attachments: Study tour participant list, Kimberley power point presentation, Kimberley workshop (June 24-25th) participant list and invitation list.

1. Kimberley Experience

Objective: To review and provide feedback on Kimberley's experience to date.

Ingrid Liepa, the local coordinator for Kimberley's climate change adaptation project gave a brief presentation on the project to date, key observations, lessons learned and next steps. This was an interactive session with ongoing Q&A.

Key points from the presentation:

- Timeline of milestones to date
- Information on local steering committee and proposed expansion
- Summary of June 24-25th workshop, prioritization process and outcomes re priority areas:
 - o Water supply and demand
 - o Forest ecosystems and fire management
 - o Energy and Economy
 - o Tourism
 - o Municipal Infrastructure
 - o Health and Food Security
- An information/data needs wish list for the CBT advisory committee
- Items and opportunities for the work plan ahead
- Key learnings from the process to date



Highlights from the Q&A:

Use of WIKI as a collaboration tool: Using it mostly to store documents, communications has been through email and phone up to present.

Request to see list of who was invited and who participated in Kimberley's first community workshop: See attached participant list in Excel (2 pages included, participants and invitees)

Topics that didn't make priority list: Kimberley SC realizes the workshop is one step in identifying priority areas for further research. The study tour, conversations with AC, local city staff and Kimberley residents are planned for the future.

Information & Data Needs: Members of the CBT advisory committee participated in identifying where they might be able to contribute and will now work toward refining the list and communicating what is possible in what timeframes. It was noted that some information may be easily transferable to other communities and the AC/CBT should look at this (i.e. ski hill information).

Adaptation & Mitigation: There was some discussion as to understanding what is climate change adaptation vs generally adapting to a less carbon intensive lifestyle. This initiative will focus mainly on climate change impacts (bio-physical) at the local level and how to adapt to those impacts. It is not yet clear how social and economic impacts from climate change will be addressed.

Awareness and Community Engagement: There were several questions as to how aware the community was with regards to the project. It was agreed that more efforts should be made to engage the wider community (individuals, families and community at large) in the project as soon as possible.

Monitoring: This is a pilot project so there is a need to reflect, learn and monitor progress at the local and regional scales.

*See attached PDF of the power point presentation for more details on the presentation.

2. Site Visits

Objective: To better understand the priority sites identified by Kimberley as well as further information needs, possible lines of inquiry and future directions/options.



During the afternoon, participants traveled together by bus to various sites in Kimberley that had been identified as priority areas for investigation.

Sites visited:

- Mark Creek reservoir (water supply, municipal infrastructure, forest ecosystems)
- Ski Hill/Nordic Center/Trickle Creek golf course (tourism, forest ecosystems and fire management, water supply)
- Platzl (tourism)
- Mark Creek flood area near Platzl (water)
- Nature Park at Higgins Entrance and Levirs Ave (forest ecosystems and fire management, tourism)



Interesting information that came out during the field trip:

- Kimberley has highest per capita water consumption in BC (1000L/capity/day)
- Can Kimberley use the Nordic center forest, which has undergone fire management treatment, as a future wild game reserve?
- Consider cumulative impacts in addition to climate change such as local development (i.e. new residential developments and boundary expansions).
- % of reservoir from snowmelt is not known but is important to model as those that currently are snow fed will be more sensitive in the future. There will be a shift in the hydrograph (i.e. timing).
- City of Trail shared an experience where they built a wall against flooding from one creek. Unexpectedly, the wall ended up holding water in the city from a different river during a storm event. We can learn from other places like Verona, Italy where bridges have holes for water to exit. It was suggested you need to think out of the box to deal with potential issues.
- Kimberley will use water downstream to generate power in the future. Power will be used to make chlorine which they use for treating their water.

- Village of Kaslo raised concerns about rising lake levels and infrastructure development on the shores Kootenay Lake.
- The Platzl is the center of tourism in Kimberley. Average occupancy is 19% with maximum occupancy in February at 70%.
- Kimberley has the world's largest free standing Cuckoo Clock.
- In 1968 there was a big flood in Kimberley from Mark Creek (rain on snow event). This issue was not identified as a priority in the community workshop and given its location in the center of the community, it needs to be revisited.
- Emergency preparedness did not come up as an issue in the workshop but should be investigated further.

3. Developing a Learning Network

Objective: To jointly agree on the direction for the learning network to take until May 2009.

The following list of potential activities was generated:

- Quarterly reflection phone calls
- 1 page summaries of meeting minutes from Communities
- Key Questions to answer ongoing:
 - o What data are we collecting?
 - o Where are we getting data from?
 - o Questions to Advisory Committee (relevant to LN)
 - o What worked/didn't work?
 - o Is there a better way?
 - o How much is it really costing?
- At key junctures for data/info collection, find out if relevant for other communities and collect at same time
- Post information on common site
- Think about Kimberley/Elkford post 'adaptation plan'
- Have benchmark indicators – need baseline and then look at how innovations with save costs, potential change.
- Work on easy ideas first and more costly actions later
- For year 1, keep study tours in Basin, next one in Elkford.

Action Items:

- Michelle will compile a list of potential questions the learning network could address over the coming months and send this out to the network for feedback.
- Local coordinators will provide 1 page summaries of steering committee meetings for LN
- Michelle will organize quarterly phone calls to reflect on the process to date (dates to be confirmed).
- Need to investigate where materials from LN will be posted (Michelle, Ingrid, Elkford)
- Next study tour in Elkford (Michelle and Corien, date to be confirmed)
- Communities and Michelle to track in-kind commitments to understand needs for replicability

Feedback and Learning by Participants:

Overall feedback was positive and participants learned a lot from each other's experience through ongoing reflection during the day. Kimberley found the process useful to refine their thinking and other communities were grateful for the opportunity to learn from the Kimberley experience. Some examples include: Elkford's three key lessons: 1) Identify what everyone's expectations are upfront to



reduce future unknowns, 2) Understand time lines and 3) Plan for data collection. Kaslo reflected that the learning network/study tour is productive as we are removed from the local politics of one's own community which allows for critical thinking of impacts/actions with objectivity. Trail realized the importance of having a local coordinator who helps drive the process and keep things moving and on track.

It was agreed that talking face to face, '*standing in a circle and chatting*', is important and has benefits beyond that achieved through teleconferences. Questions brought out through the day were relevant to a range of participants. Moreover, opportunities to talk informally on the bus, at sites and during breaks provide many new perspectives and ideas.



Additional learnings to note include:

- Be cognizant of plugging in and effectively engaging advisory committee & steering committee into local processes.
- Local processes will all be different, have to be customized.
- Kimberley identified key issues but without full energy of the public – need to question if you have got it all.
- Learning about emerging issues that didn't come out at Kimberley workshop.
- Kimberley did great job on setting priorities. Need to fine tune this, i.e. energy and flooding. Should also look at spatial integration of issues.
- Need to better understand data gaps and who will do what and for what purpose within the Advisory Committee.
- Comprehension is increasing in terms of the organizational structure of how to do adaptation planning.
- Don't do only one strategy – try 3 or 4 to have a cushion.
- The timing felt rushed at certain periods during the day (i.e. telecon portion with AC feedback on Kimberley process).

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- Kimberley steering committee and coordinator Ingrid for the site visits and hosting

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